

St. Cloud Municipal Band Meeting Minutes

Date: Oct. 30 2023

Meeting Location: Tech High School

Board members present: Mike Knaak, John Creasy, John Plantenberg, Katie Johnson, Patric Lewandowski, Harvey Binder, Vicki Johnson

Others present: Lowell Larson, Andy Nelson, Joe Fox

Meeting called to order at 6 p.m. with Chairperson Mike Knaak presiding.

Approve Agenda

Mr. Knaak requested to amend the agenda to include the consideration of Santa and Mrs. Claus attending the Whitney Senior Center concert as well as consider using Tech High School as a future concert venue.

Motion to approve the amended agenda made by Ms. V. Johnson. Motion carried.

Approve Sept. 18 minutes

Motion to approve the Sept. 18 minutes made by Ms. K. Johnson. Motion carried.

Whitney Christmas Concert Santa and Mrs. Claus

Mr. Fox had received a request from the Whitney Senior Center to have Santa and Mrs. Claus make a guest appearance prior to the concert as well as stick around after the concert had concluded.

Motion to allow Santa and Mrs. Claus to participate with the SCMB at the Whitney Senior Center Christmas concert made by Ms. V. Johnson. Motion carried.

Tech High School Future Concert Venue

Mr. Nelson and Mr. Larson were discussing the possibility of using the Tech High School auditorium space for a future spring or fall SCMB concert. Mr. Nelson said the space at Tech would be really conducive for hosting a concert as it would include a warm up room for us as well. He noted there are some lighting issues at the Paramount making it difficult for band members to see the conductor. Mr. Nelson believes there would be a facility rental fee, but if we charge for the concert tickets we would be able to make more money off of the tickets versus what we do now through the Paramount (Paramount takes a portion of the ticket fees).

Mr. Creasy said this would be a good idea, especially as we move forward with the SCMB Ambassadors program.

Mr. Fox said the main issue would be ticketing and attendance/marketing. Ms. V. Johnson suggested using something like PayPal or Venmo for ticket sales. Mr. Knaak said the band could also put something up on the website for ticket sales.

Mr. Lewandowski noted playing at the Paramount might be a bigger deal for high school students who would be part of the Ambassador program versus at the high school.

Mr. Fox said the Paramount would need a date for the Spring 2024 concert sooner rather than later to be included in marketing.

Mr. Lewandowski said if we were planning on using the Paramount for the Ambassadors program, then we should commit to Fall 2024 at the Paramount and Spring 2025 at Tech High School. We would be moving ahead with the Spring 2024 concert at the Paramount.

Mr. Fox will look into facility rental fees for Spring 2025 at Tech High School and will report back to the Board.

Set Date for Annual Meeting, Candidates for Board Election

Mr. Knaak reviewed the possible slate of candidates ahead of the upcoming annual meeting. Board members Vicki Johnson, Patric Lewandowski, Katie Johnson, and John Creasy have reached the end of their terms. Vicki Johnson has reached her term limits and would not be eligible to run for reelection. Mr. Lewandowski, Ms. K. Johnson, and Mr. Creasy indicated they would be willing to run again unless others were willing to step up. Ms. V. Johnson said she had reached out to clarinet player Shelly Ziemer Gehrls about running. Ms. Ziemer Gehrls said she would be interested in running.

Mr. Knaak proposed Nov. 13 for the annual meeting. This will occur during band rehearsal. Mr. Knaak will make an announcement for nominations from the floor for a slate of candidates at tonight's rehearsal.

Germany Trip Update

Mr. Fox updated the board on the Germany trip. He said 65 people had signed up with the original capacity for the trip being 66. There are 40 musicians confirmed with an adequate mix of instrumentation. He said 48 out of the 53 group airline tickets have been spoken for. Travelers will need to commit to tickets by February. He said they do have some room still on the tour buses.

Ambassador Program

Mr. Nelson provided a draft document of the Ambassadors program for Board member review. The document included the purpose/benefits of the program; the anticipated process/timeline for the program; a possible list of schools to include; as well as duties the SCMB (conductor; section leaders; librarian; and committee) would have to execute this program.

Revisions to the list of participating schools included adding ROCORI, Sauk-Rapids Rice, St. John's Prep, Albany, and Holdingford. Eden Valley-Watkins could be eliminated due to the distance.

Mr. Nelson proposed having school band directors nominate up to four students – requiring them to nominate from different instruments.

Mr. Lewandowski indicated he would like to have the band make a big deal out of this program for the students including future social media announcements or through other traditional media means.

Motion for Mr. Nelson to move forward with the Ambassador Program for the Spring 2024 SCMB concert made by Mr. Lewandowski. Motion carried.

Quarter 3 Financials

Mr. Creasy presented on the SCMB's third quarter budget to actuals. He said the reason the band's operating funds are sitting at 47% was because we are still waiting on an \$8,000 check from the City of St. Cloud. Mr. Creasy has reached out to St. Cloud Community Development Director Matt Glaseaman to check on the status of this check. He said expenses are on target for the year at 74.26% of the budgeted expenses occurring.

Motion to approve the 2023 Quarter 3 Budget versus Actual report as presented made by Ms. V. Johnson. Motion carried.

New Members

Mr. Creasy stated four individuals have passed their probationary period and are eligible for band membership. Those individuals include:

- Jason Skroch – French Horn.
- Mike Karl – Alto Saxophone.
- Levi Schwieters – Trombone.
- Edward Wendt, Jr. – Tuba.

Motion to extend membership to these four individuals made by Mr. Plantenberg. Motion carried.

Proposals for Committees

Due to timing, Mr. Knaak requested this item be tabled until next meeting.

Proposal for Marketing

Due to timing, Mr. Knaak requested this item be tabled until next meeting.

Other Business

Mr. Fox reminded the board there will be no rehearsal on Monday, Nov. 6. There will be a joint concert with the Central Lakes College Wind Symphony Band in Little Falls on Nov. 27.

Adjourn

Mr. Lewandowski made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 p.m. Motion carried.

Next meeting: Nov. 13, 2023 Annual Meeting.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Vicki B. Johnson